

Subject: Sale of Vanguardia Popular  
Printing Press to the  
Guatemalan Government

Report No: [ ] 129

Date of Information: 10 January 1953 to  
7 December 1953

Place Acquired: [ ]

Date Acquired: 8 December 1953

Evaluation:

Date of Report: 18 December 1953

Source: A. Pars 1, 2, 3: Costa Rican with access to government files  
(B). Appraisal of content Documentary.

B. Par 4: American businessman resident in Costa Rica (C)  
from an individual with access to Communist correspondence  
(B). Appraisal of content Documentary.

C. Par 5: American college graduate resident in Costa Rica (B)  
from an individual in highest Vanguardia Popular circles (B).  
Appraisal of content 2.

1. On 18 March 1953 Victor M. QUESADA C. submitted a completed application for Reexport License to the Commercial Section of the Costa Rican Ministry of Finance. The request was for the exportation of three (3) LINOTYPES NO. 14, 1 DUPLEX press, and accessories, valued at 60,000 quetzales (\$60,000), to the Government of Guatemala. (See Attachments 1 and 2, photostats of the original documents)

2. On 18 March 1953, the export license was granted to QUESADA, with a notation that the cost of packing and freighting would be paid by the Exporter. (Attachment No. 3 is a photostat of the original export license).

3. On 20 March a similar license was issued by the Banco Central de Costa Rica, completing the legal requirements for exportation. (See Attachment No. 4, a photostatic copy of the original document.) On the reverse of the Banco Central export license is the data which indicates the source of the printing press and the original price paid for it as follows:

"Application File No. 8468 of 21 Nov. 1945 (45 crates)  
Application File No. 8469 of 21 Nov. 1945 (1 box)  
B/L (bill of lading) No. 461 and B/L No. 4 of 1945.  
Invoice No. 6-5873 of 22 March 1945 for \$13,460.00  
and Invoice (additional) No. 6-5873 of 29 March 1945, (\$6,425  
both from John Griffiths Co., Inc, of the USA."

(See attachment No. 5, a photostatic copy of the original document.)

Classification

R Y B A T  
~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

PAGE 2

[ ]-129

4. On 28 October 1953 Vicente SAENZ, a known Communist who has been living in Mexico, wrote the following letter to Victor MORA Valverde, President of the Partido Vanguardia Popular (Popular Vanguard Party - Costa Rican Communist Party - VP)

Palace Hotel  
Guatemala, C.A.

28 October 1953

Sr. Lic. Don  
Manuel Mora Valverde  
San Jose, Costa Rica

Remembered Manuel:

Now I believe that you will lend me all your aid despite your silence. I am supremely happy that the sale of the press here for 60,000 dollars, now completely paid, has been accomplished, according to what they tell me in the Office (Secretaria) of Publicity of the Presidency.

Yes, I am pleased, but see to it that you don't leave me hanging here. I am not even insisting on payment of the note which you signed for me three years ago, and which I have here before me. A little good faith (on your part) will leave me satisfied. It would be enough if you or Eduardo would write me urgently concerning your decision, especially in relation to the 10,000 colones which Hutt denies me because he says you are the ones who owe them to me.

Don't forget to write me at Panuco 194-2, Mexico, D.F., where I now return.

Your affectionate,

/s/ Vicente Saenz

(Attachment No. 6 is a photostatic copy of the original letter)

5. During the week of 8 December 1953 the VP received the money which was owed to the Party for the sale of the printing press to the Government of Guatemala. Source did not know the exact amount received by the Party, but estimated it as 50,000 colones (\$8,620 at \$5.80 to \$1.00). Of this sum approximately 1,500 colones (\$258.00) remains in the party treasury, since most of the money was used to

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
R Y B A T  
PBSUCCESS

PAGE 3

[ ] 129

pay outstanding debts, some of which dated from before the 1948 revolution. Some of the members of the Political Commission, especially Rodolfo GUZMAN and Arnolando FERRETO, have expressed surprise that so little remains of the money and have voiced suspicions that QUESADA, who handled the sale, may have cheated the Party. A report revealing the disposition of the money will probably be made by Mario SOLIS, the Party treasurer.

FIELD COMMENT:

The documents mentioned in Para 3 indicate (if the Banco Central's figures are correct) that the equipment was purchased in 1945 for a total of \$19,885, leaving QUESADA and the VP a profit of \$40,115.00. Even after deducting an estimated \$5,000.00 for costs of packing and shipping, this leaves a net profit of more than \$35,000.00. The HUTT mentioned in SAENZ' letter to Manuel MORA (par 4) is Eduardo HUTT, to whom SAENZ wrote from Mexico in September 1953, requesting his 10,000 colones. The Victor mentioned in SAENZ' letter is Victor MORA Valverde, brother of Manuel MORA Valverde, and Secretary General of the VP. The profit factor, and obvious connection of the VP with the sale of the printing equipment appears to provide circumstantial evidence that the Guatemalan Government may be indirectly subsidizing the Costa Rican Communists, who apparently have been able to reestablish their credit by paying of their debts.

R Y B A T  
PESUCCESS

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
R Y B A T  
PBSUCCESS

From: [ ] Report No: [ ] 129 Local File No:  
No. of Pages: 3 No. of Enclosures: 6  
Report Made By: Stefan/R. Labanow Approved By:

Distribution:

By copy to: Wash  
Guat  
[ ]

Orally to: None

Source Cryptonym: See Below

References: ID 2267 (Not sent [ ])

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

[ ] -360 (Not sent Guat)  
[ ] -24  
[ ] -33  
[ ] -61 (Not sent [ ])  
[ ] -66 (Not sent [ ])  
[ ] -85 (To Wash only)  
[ ] -91  
[ ] -117 (To Wash only)  
WH Fld Memo No. 156-53

Sources: A: Alfredo POVEDANO, Chief of the Commercial Section  
of the Ministry of Finance

B: HUMANOID - 2

C: HUMANOID - 3

COMMENTS: [ ] 360 reported SAENZ' letter to HUTT, (See Field  
Comment). It is suggested that in connection with  
PBSUCCESS every effort be made to contact SAENZ, who  
if still unpaid, and in need of funds, may be willing  
to sign a signed statement or to provide information  
of value, for revenge or to solve his economic problems.  
The tone of his letter to MORA is considered to be some-  
what menacing, and certainly not supplicatory. It is  
further suggested that the Banco Central's cost data  
(Par 3) be checked with the John GRIFFITHS Co.

Enclosures: Wash: In Dupl  
Guat: 1 cy  
[ ]: 1 cy  
File: 1 cy

Classification

PALACE HOTEL  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

28 de octubre de 1953

Querido Sr.  
Manuel Morán Salas,  
San José, Costa Rica.

Querido Manuel:

Alguna vez crea que me quedará usted todo en silencio  
ante tanta alegría. Me alegro muchísimo que al fin  
se haya hecho aquí la nota de la imprenta en 60  
colones, ya totalmente pagados, según se me informó  
por la Secretaría de Publicidad de la Presidencia.

Me alegro, sí, pero sea usted que no me  
deje colgando. Ni siquiera insiste en la nota que  
usted me firmó hace tres años, y que tengo aquí  
a la vista. Bastaría con un poco de buena fe  
para darme satisfacción. Y que usted o Víctor  
me escriban urgentemente lo que resuelva, sobre  
todo en relación con los 10.000 colones que  
me niega Hitt porque dice que usted se los debe.

No debe escribirme a Panamá 194-2,  
México, D.F., a donde ya regreso.

Suyo afectísimo,

Vicente Sáenz

Nº de Exportador.....

Clase Nº.....

**Banco Central de Costa Rica**

DEPARTAMENTO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR

Nº 16653

San José, Costa Rica

marzo 20-

Fórm. D. E. Nº 2

101.671 Torno

**LICENCIA DE EXPORTACION**

Nombre del exportador **Víctor M. Quesada C.** Dirección **San José**  
Consignatario **Gobierno de Guatemala.** Dirección **Guatemala.**  
Denominación General del producto o mercadería **1 maquinaria de imprenta.**  
País a que se exporta **Guatemala.** Peso en kilos Valor por unidad  
Cantidad que se exportará **1 maquinaria de imprenta - valorada en 60.000 Quet-**  
Valor FOB o CIF en moneda extranjera **Quetz. No se solicitaron divisas al Banco**  
Fecha aproximada en que se recibirá el pago **para importarla.**  
Importe líquido o aproximado que se recibirá en pago.-----  
Forma en que se recibirá el pago **Sin valor comercial**  
Fecha de validez de esta licencia **30 días.**  
Licencia de Hda. No. 226- clase 1-3-.  
**SE AUTORIZA CON INSTRUCCIONES DE DON FELIX**  
**CONJUNTO P.**  
El Exportador se compromete a vender a un Banco autorizado,  
en su totalidad, y en divisas aceptables para el Banco, el produc-  
to de la exportación a que se contrae la presente licencia.

**Víctor M. Quesada C.**

Firma del Exportador

**AUTORIZADA**

(SELLO)

**TRIPLICADO**  
DEPARTAMENTO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR  
(DEPARTAMENTO COMERCIAL DEL  
MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA)

20 MAR 1951

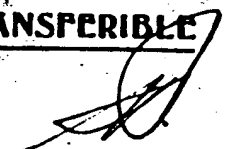
Director o Jefe Sección Exportación

Ped. Des.No. 8488 del 21 de nvo, de 1945-. (45 bulges)  
Ped. Des.No. 8469 del 21 nov, del 45-- 1 caja--  
B/L. No. 461- y B./L.No. 4 del 25--  
Fact. No.-6-5873- del 23 de marzo del 45- por  
valor de \$13.460.-- y La. No. Va. 6-5873- del 23  
de marzo del 45 por valor de \$3.425.-- Ambas  
de la Casa John Griffiths Co. Inc. de Usa.

# LICENCIA DE EXPORTACION

Ley N° 1404 de 21 de Diciembre de 1951

Imp. Nacional - 1953

Licencia otorgada el: 18 de Marzo de 1953		Licencia N°	
Caducará el: 18 de mayo de 1953		Clase 1-B	
Nombre del Exportador: Victor M. Quesada G.			
Dirección: Avenida 7 entre calles 3 y 3 Bis - casa No. 127			
País de Destino Final: Guatemala			
Nombre del Consignatario: Gobierno de Guatemala			
Dirección: Guatemala			
Cantidad	DESCRIPCION	Precio de Venta	
		Valor Unidad	Valor Total
	Maquinaria de imprenta Netas, junto inventario de la maquinaria de imprenta que se re-exporta, fletes, seguros, correo y el flete del envío de la maquinaria por cuenta del exportador.	Quetzales	10.000.00
El Departamento Comercial del Ministerio de Economía autoriza esta exportación de acuerdo con la Ley No. 1404 de 21 de Diciembre de 1951 y Reglamento No. 4 de 23 de Enero de 1952.			
<b><u>ESTA LICENCIA NO ES TRANSFERIBLE</u></b>			
 Jefe del Departamento Comercial Ministerio de Economía			
Sello de la Aduana Encargada de la Exportación		Sello del Departamento Comercial	



APARTADO 1489  
TELEFONO 3276

# Castro & Quesada Sucs.

CAROLANQUE

## ALMACEN

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

10 de Enero de 1953

### INVENTARIO DE LA IMPRENTA "EDITORIAL COSTARRICENSE S.A."

Tres linotipos No 14  
Cinco fuentes para uso de matrices de linotipos  
Un equipo de maquinaria "Indlow"  
Cinco fuentes "Indlow" para matrices  
Un gabinete "Indlow"  
Una prensa "Duplex"

Se cajas de tipos para composición  
Planchas sin soporte para formato  
Una prensa para composiciones con motor  
Una máquina para gobernar "Gutter"  
Una máquina para gobernar "Hilgar"  
Máquinas para cortar la prensa  
Una prensa para cortar el papel  
Una prensa para distribución con gabinetes  
Una prensa de metal

Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal

Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal

Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal

Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal

Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal  
Una prensa de metal



DEPARTAMENTO COMERCIAL - MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA

SOLICITUD DE LICENCIA DE EXPORTACION

Para artículos o implementos comprendidos en la lista de materiales estratégicos

(Ley N° 1404 de 21 de Diciembre de 1951)

1.—Fecha <u>18 de Marzo de 1953</u>			
2.—Nombre del Exportador <u>Victor M. Quesada C.</u> Dirección <u>avenida 2 entre calles 3 y 5Bis casa No 327</u>			
3.—País de Destino <u>Guatemala</u>			
4.—Nombre del Consignatario <u>Gobierno de Guatemala</u> Dirección <u>Guatemala</u>			
5.—Cantidad	6.—Nombre y Descripción del Artículo	7.—Precio de Venta	
		Valor Unidad	Valor Total
	<u>Adjunto inventario de de la maqui- naria de imprenta que voy a reexpor- tar.</u> <u>El empaque, acarreo y el flete del envío de la maquinaria por cuenta del exportador.</u>		<u>60.000</u> <u>Quetzales</u>
8.—Me comprometo a suministrar al Departamento Comercial del Ministerio de Economía un certificado de destino extendido por la Autoridad competente del país importador y a cumplir con las cláusulas del Reglamento indicado al dorso.			
Firma del Exportador o de su Representante Legal:			
		Por "Editorial Costarricense S.A."	
		<u>V. M. Quesada</u> Gerente general	
Cédula de Identidad <u>53593</u>		Cédula de Residencia _____	